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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III 1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2028

Mr. Mark Haley
Director, Hopewell Regional
Wastewater Treatment Facility
P.O. Box 969
Hopewell, VA 23860

OCT 2 2 1999

Dear Mr. Haley:

Thank you for your letter of August 19, 1999, requesting a meeting with EPA to discuss the HRWTF pretreatment proposal under Project XL in light of the non-compliance concerns on the part of some of HRWTF's industrial users. First, let me assure you that EPA is committed to a timely resolution of the issues associated with your project. We recognize the significant resources HRWTF has devoted to development of this project and acknowledge the potential value that it brings to the XL Program. However, as stated in my letter of August 19, the outstanding and unresolved compliance issues at Allied Signal-Hopewell and Smurfit Stone Container still prevent us from proceeding with your project in its current form. Thus, I propose that both Hopewell and EPA continue to explore all viable options for moving forward with a project that is acceptable to all stakeholders.

In an effort to give full consideration to your request, EPA continues to work on our analysis of your proposal. Therefore, I suggest that we schedule a meeting after my staff completes their review activities. Upon completion of our review, I will contact you immediately to set up a convenient time to discuss any remaining issues and decide the appropriate next steps in the process.

Finally, while EPA continues its review of the project, I would also encourage you to engage your staff to examine workable options that address the concerns outlined in our previous correspondence. The Agency recognizes Hopewell's commitment to environmental excellence and we will continue to work with HRWTF to develop a mutually acceptable XL proposal. If you have any further questions or wish to discuss these issues further, please contact Beth Termini at (215) 814-2695.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Voltaggio

Deputy Regional Administrator

Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474